THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The licences issued by the Government for provision of various access services are technology neutral and the operators are free to provide connections on Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), Mobile or Landlines.

Job guarantee for IT experts

94. SHRI VIJAYJ. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's domestic IT Industry is expected to record a growth of 11 percent in 2003-04 touching a revenue of Rs. 33,700 crores.

(b) if so, the share of software and services in this growth and whether India has adequate number of jobs for such experts in our expanding IT markets, and

(c) The share of 'Call Centres' who absorb such trained personnel and with the expected dwindling number of 'Call Centres' has any contingency plan being thought of to absorb such retrenched personnel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. According to NASSCOM estimates, the Indian domestic IT industry is projected to record a turn over of Rs. 33,750 crores in 2003-04, a growth of 11 percent over 2002-03.

(b) The share of software and services was Rs. 15,350 crores during 2003-04. The vibrant Indian IT industry has adequate job potential to absorb the IT experts.

(c) The share of domestic IT enabled services was Rs. 1,200 crores during 2003-04. The current trend in the number of Call Centres indicates an increase in numbers.